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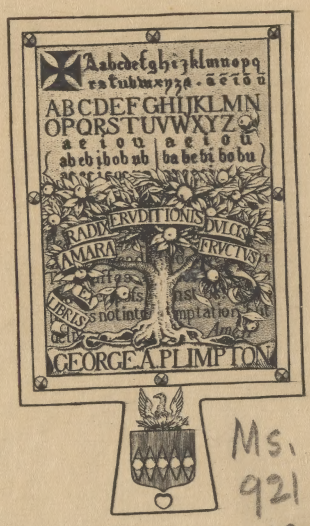

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The Gift of George A. Plimpton

Minor note ¶321 △ Gray, in his the far famed Elegy
haunts

Full many a flow'r is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air:

— To imply that the inherent virtues of some of
the rude forefathers of the hamlet" were wholly lost
& unknown, from the obscurity of the precincts. Lor
-trary to this sentiment, however, George Graham Flower
-ished in the heart of London, & yet his merit was no
-t enquired after, except in his profession.

The Author of Pursuits of Literature,
who is sternly severe on the profligate Muse of
this man, &, from the sameness that pervades his
pages, considers his professions as an humourist much
overrated, is satisfied with adverting to the condescendg
-ness of the two & fortieth cousin of the Theban Pindar
— That however despicable Kings are, yet they may
be somewhat necessary, like a bolt or a peg used to
hold a building together. We might easily have justi
-fied his opinion of the bulwardash disputer, by opposing one
string of his tirades to another, for no writer, either in
prose or doggrel, not even Cobbett, contradicts himself
more pointedly. He is by turns a royalist & a democrat,
having written with equal virulence on both sides of the
question, apparently without a shadow of principle beyond
that of a man who sells his services to the best bidder; without
any further enquiry, like honest Richard Brothers Bob Southey &c &c

306/

him in his Diary.) If he writes one more, it is to uphold the cause of anarchy; for perhaps the best of all his works — that which abounds with has the most pathetic & satirical touches, was addressed to certain journeymen shoemakers who, about forty years ago ~~came back~~ combined against their masters to raise their wages.

~~[illegible] Bonnycastle [illegible]~~

~~[illegible] showed the [illegible]~~

from ++ 16 new pareg.[k] This weakness in the eminent astronomer may be dated from his connexion with Christopher Irwin, the inventor of the ~~[illegible]~~ marine chair, becoming engrafted on the natural vice of age: it was not so singular as the defection of another friend, the circum-stances of which are a curiosity.

Among John Harrison's scientific cronies was D^r. Robert to ◇326 they differed respecting the right to discovery of a principle advanced in the Harmonics, but we waive the particulars here. Their estrangement, un-der such circumstances, cost the rural genius some tears (as he tells us.) Not so, the Cantabrigian, who, notwithstanding his profound analysis of harmony, seems to have been deficient of it in his composition; and indulged an acrimony so injurious in its consequen-ces, that not having the candor to separate the cause of the Longitude from that of the musical amateur, he degenerated from a zealous friend into the bitter enemy of his former associate, which, as the Professor's chair gave him a seat at the Board, he could demonstrate: and, like D^r Bradley, had no idea of the propriety of absenting himself [illegible] which questions immediately connected with the interest of the Candidate were before them ___ a remark applicable, it may be seen to other Commissioners at ~~[illegible]~~ personal variance with him: They were a jury appointed to decide on his claim to a reward of £20,000, but unlike

to 312

Minor Note at □ ~~The account I suppose did not say the Judge was bribed in this affair~~ As it was not said the Judge was bribed, the affair may be conjectured to have turned on some technical chicanery that attached to the Millers agreement not having provided against a circumstance so unlooked for. In England it would have been held irreconcilable to the Common Law.

Note at +283 Of this description was the celebrated affair of the Miller at the Court of Frederic ; as

to ⊞ 563

~~Minor Note. As it was not said the Judge was bribed it probably arose from some technical chicanery that attached to the Millers agreement not having provided against a circumstance so unlooked for. In England it would have been held totally irreconcilable to the common law~~

~~wholly unconnected with the pre-~~
~~sent to seem that it will become them in~~
~~every case at the least expense to~~
~~their good will and favor. The more just~~
~~in the hearts of the legal attorneys~~
~~if they could. There is however no cer-~~
~~tainty of that effect, it is more~~
~~the common fate of the people regard~~
~~less as we do, to find themselves united by~~
~~unlimited indulgence.~~

that transaction, the know-
ledge of which was soon circulated over
Europe, may not be familiar to many readers of
the present time, in this country; such are
informed, that a Judge, having decided that
the Miller was bound to pay his rent, after
his Landlord had diverted the course of the
stream that turned the mill, & consequently
rendered it useless, was ordered to be punished
for a decision so contrary to equity.
The Author is not without appre-
hensions of being hitherto to those theorists

312/ the general practice in other courts, he could not challenge any of them, though ever so notoriously at enmity with him.

Note at ⊙ 280 The unsuccessful party (the Lunar junta, & their supporters) wholly insensible to the merit of the share the King had in this concern, revenged themselves for their defeat, by affecting to call the grant he had procured "a snug money bill." But the Author, without "having presumed into the heaven of heavens." or "drawn empirical air," scruples not to have recourse to those balances which Homer & Milton brought out on occasions of high behest: & stowing the Professors from Cam & Isis severally, with their gowns turned inside out, like military deserters, & their square caps disposed a posteriori, in one scale, he places George 3. in the other, without his crown, but with a telescope instead of the sceptre in one hand, & a chronometer, as a substitute for the globe in the other. The scales being thus poised by the majestic shade of Newton, whose off hand rests on an armillary sphere, the one surcharged with the discoveries of nine days in each Lunar month, "wind & weather permitting," proving lighter than inflamable gas, kicks the beam with a jerk that ejects the contents into "Limbo Lake," which, by Apollo's leave, we find with a fall ten thousand fathom deep below — & Mr. Croker looking into the abyss through the 314

to cost £17,500, exclusive of the interest,

who breaks any thing in their way with the
exercise of their hypothesis, yet the analogy
is common between cases of equity, & forces
home the conviction, that the Commissioners
of Longitude had no more right to divert the
current of their own opinions & purposes than
of the Claimant, after it had flowed in the
same channel from the first, than the Land-
lord in the above anecdote; unless they had
fully compensated the candidate out of their
own pockets, or otherwise, for the grievous
injury he suffered by this defection in those
promises, so frequently renewed during so
long a period. — The Miller's lease, or his
agreement, could not be more justly binding
on the proprietor than their unanimous
construction of the original act, finally
confirmed by the imposing tautology seem-
had become of these public men. If it
cost them no more than a glass of wine to
change their sentiments, it could not be
objected that a man whom it threatened
should be so mutable as

suppose the Board of Longitude, with its concerns, transferred to Berlin, & that

△ Minor Note. Lord Shaftsbury's queries on the merits of this phrase might be interposed here, but we pass on.

His voice is related to have been musical, even in swearing: a weakness that would not be expected in such a knowing one. Ed p 357+

so much applause

that such respectable natives

themselves.

John Harrison, was a Prussian subject applying to Frederic the great; the latter guided like his compeer, George the good, by the common sense of the question, would quickly have had his attention arrested by this striking feature in the transaction; & summarily anon intimated his displeasure, in a form at least as salutary as a dose of Sulphate to a plethoric Patient.—

The Miller's affair cost Frederic forty, after deducting his incensed expletives no more than the perusal of a few papers, & the issuing of his dictum, yet it drew

of the Prussian dominions as happened to be in London, or its vicinity, convened by an advertisement to celebrate it with a convivial dinner. It certainly had not cheated a thousandth part of the patient trouble interwoven with John Harrison's protection: & yet (as the Author conceives) with the exception of the

314/ optics Dr. Maskelyne lent him, is over-
& blinded by
-powered ~~and~~ the ~~reflection~~ vapours from an
immense heterogeneous mass, ignition Lunar cor-
-rusications. = ~~such more damnation doth upon them pile~~
= ~~them pile~~."
= ____ which more damnation doth upon them pile."

in the neighbourhood carried by Leo, & ——

Min. Not. ◻ 499 We have somewhere met with the
name of Professor Horsley joined to those of cer-
-tain learned men in discussing the precession of
the equinoxes, or some other astronomical data,
& far be it from us to withhold his due merit from
that gentleman, if he dwelled in those abstruse
disquisitions; but it is at the expence of an igno-
-rance of common things; for he did not know
that, in reckoning by the chronometer, ships
always took their departure from the last land
they saw = which never could be Greenwich."

venerable adventurer, his grounds, & decision
-ments, no Englishman ever took a glass of
wine, or aqua vita, in praise of the superior
merit, because superior difficulties, of Geo. 3.

We admire in antient authors, says
a literary statesman, particulars in the
conduct of individuals the counterpart
of which passes [redacted] then (we add)
the fame of Federic 3.d & the Miller resound
-s from [redacted] brazen throats, inspired with iron lungs:
while the name of George 3.d was never heard
in our high places, conjoined with that of the
eminent genius whom he [redacted] rescued from
that a Burke, & a Saville, thought the
most unqualified expression.

A moment so reproachful to
D. Mackenzie would not have been insert
-ed, if he had distinctly denied it; which not
withstanding he replies in form & the younger
Mudge he has not ventured to do, except in

His translation, when seventeen of the Epistle from Servius Sulpicius to Cicero, on the loss of his Daughter, Tullia, has been handed round, & is admired by proper judges of Sapphick attainments.

Note at ◇ 455 An obvious question arises here — for supposing D^r. Maskelyne had found the Longitude of Barbados & all the Islands in the route as accurately as was done by the Timekeeper, yet as he was not the inventor of the Lunar method, that honour belonging to Mekar, a Frenchman, with whom Professor Mayer subsequently divided it, how could he claim the reward? Notwithstanding this moot point, he spoke as if he had received assurances from one or more of the Commissioners to that effect: & probably D^r. Shepherd who introduced him to [redacted] John Harrison could have informed us better on the subject. But there is no intimation that D^r. Halley, the Abbe De la [redacted] caille, & Captain Campbell, who exerted themselves assiduously to accomplish the same object, ever formed expectations of achieving the reward. D^r. Maskelyne was the only astronomer, at sea, who, like Ixion, grasped a treasure in nubibus, only to catch a Tartar.

Note at ◇ 568 John Harrison would not have [redacted]

general & massive terms. By that learning it is inferred that neither political, nor religious party spirit are excluded in malevolence by who may find its way into the haunts of science

316 [illegible] the magnitude
of this compliment, if it reached him in his re-
-clusion; for among his harmless peculiarities,
[illegible] derived from the obscure notions of
those about him in his youth, was a slight cast of the
puritan, which made him, like those people, re-
-gard Shakespear as a very wicked fellow. And
even William Harrison, though he mixed with the
world, not being of a cast of mind to understand
Nature's poet, evinced the same prejudice, as
the following untoward incident may show. —
A Gentleman having made his Son, who was en-
-tirely deaf, a present of a handsome edition of
Shakespear, the Father sent it back with some
resentment; & the books being entrusted
to a simple lad, who was intercepted by a
prowling sharper, were lost.

Note

For the reward
This intentional competitor, talking

Minor note at ◇316 There are other rascally compos-
-itions, [illegible] exclusive of this, that sufficiently explain
why Opie, the Academician, notwithstanding his oblig-
-tions to Peter Pindar, who having accidentally lighted on,
had brought him from his obscurity in Cornwall. — But
though Wolcot was impressed by the merit of the young
artist, as nine people in ten might have been, he was
altogether deficient in good taste, & had no critical
knowledge of painting.

[illegible] Appearance
[illegible] Impropriety of Letter.

"Mr Morrison & Son both intended this
" Island, & in their return Home called at St. Bird's
" to see the instruments, which were to go to the
" the observation, for the Tide. They learned
" of Dr Bradley, who had been at the Board
" of Longitude, as being a commissioner. The Do
" ctor received them most politely, and in
" the greatest hurry, told Mr Morrison, that
" he could not stay for him as his Majesty's Yacht
" Mr Mayor & the Aldermen stood ten thousand
" pounds Expence

" Since Mr Morrison an opportunity, I
" being that very day, a friend Dr Bradley had been
" at the Board, the former day, where one of the
" Lords had the Impertinence to tell the Doctor

at ++ page 19

the glaring impropriety of [illegible]
[illegible] his sent as a commissioner, [illegible]
could only be excused subsequently by D. Maske-
lyne being found among them, shortly after what
passed at Barbadoes. All that can be said in
extenuation of the conduct of the former Astron-
mer Royal, rendered more cutting by his previous
friendship for our candidate, is, that Dr. Bradley
is not seen to veer about thus till after his con-
nexion with Christopher Irwin, the inventor of
the marine chair, & we may say, with Lord Ches

Note at ☐ 278 It will be recollected that, on his Lordships motion, the papers of the Commission of Longitude were ordered to be laid before the House — were they read with any attention then? — & how is that to be reconciled with the politeness (as the younger Harrison calls it) with which this deduction was carried? — & received with equal civility by the Premier, we must suppose: but by what code of good breeding Lord North could have justified the ill-manners & uncouth opposition he was showing his excellent Master, for what might have been called a drop in the bucket at the Treasury, we cannot divine.

Insert at ✝ 316 (of the Society of Friends, named Robinson)

-ter fected, " we are all of us unlike ourselves at
" times." We will not enquire whether a Descend-
-ant of Atlas is liable to be influenced by a fine
night for his telescope, as the noble Lord says a
hero may be by a fine morning for " the field
" of combat " when thick weather would have
shown sheepish. It is pleasanter to turn towards
a character, a surprising contrast to those Job
Harrison had to contend with — an individual who
— vindicates the ways of God to man!

One of those men that cheer the wandering en-
-quirer like an oasis, in the barren of flame
through which he " plods his weary way." — With
the same liberality, as the Bard of Ross, though
not so rich, he furnishes the most, on instance the
Author (in Deuteronomy reading) has ever met with,
of that superior merit which may be obtained
ted by rescuing the familiar taint or odious,
That he —

Bore like the Turk no rival near the throne.

At the time our rural mechanician
set forth like Parson Adams for " the great city "

Graham, as above observed, being so commended by

might be regarded as never surpassed in candour, and

George Graham, clock & watch-maker was at the
head of the profession in England (& in Europe)
having succeeded Tompion in that preeminence.
The new aspirant after fame & emolument, in
mechanics, introduced himself to
him by the advice of D^r. Halley, who told him,
not to be discouraged by something repulsive in
his first address, & he would find him a valuable
man. And so indeed he proved, after, as John
Harrison of Brocton it, "they got the ice broke,
"the stick would not bear." It appears he called
in the morning, was detained to take pot-luck, &
these scientific zealots filled up the day with
animated discussions on subjects of magnitude,
in the mensuration of time. It would be doing
Graham injustice, not to suppose that having
taken measure of his guests' capacity, he knew
& saw, he was destined to eclipse all who had gone
before him & himself inclusively. Indeed we learn,
(request Description etc.) that he allowed his own
methods were inferior to those he was about; — an ac-
knowledgment, which, under the circumstances,
almost unprecedented, when it is considered how

from

emoluments
can too much be thought of the exalted

~~The Board of Inspectors~~

found informing the commissioners ~~Visitors~~
~~Resident~~ Visitors

apt mankind are to view every object through
the medium of self, when causes of rivalry or
predominate. [illegible] virtue of the man who, in a situation
so trying to human infirmity, & likely to operate
on the basest & proudest passions of the species
manifested not a particle of envy, or ill-will,
toward this singular genius, & instead of finding
pretences to dissuade him from staying in London
after he had picked out of him what he could,
& other having brought his drawings & explanations
with him; he seems at once to have
identified his interests with those of his country,
& of the best test of skill in an art of so much
importance. He [illegible] ~~kept the recommendation~~
~~in 1746 which it may be con-~~
~~cluded he was instrumental in procuring~~ for he is
, 16th January, 1741
— That Mr. Harrison hath been ten years from first
to last employed on the said machine [the 3d in
order] & been at very great expence, in employ-
-ing Several persons to assist him in making the
same, & that in his opinion it may in all pro-

320

Note at ◇307 There are some traits of such a cast of mind (an aberration of intellect we should call it) that they cannot be brought to comprehend, or con-form to, some sentiment to which the general sense of mankind attaches much value. Thus, Lewis 11. when he had bought off the threatened in-vasion of France by Edward 4th., congratulated himself on the dexterity of his management; for he had found, by calculation, it would have cost him considerably more to have put his king-dom into a proper state of defence; & he had not one idea in common with those who condemned (be-hind his back) the meanness of such political tac-tics.

Note at ⊙267 minor When La Pompadour was told that the King had become much enamoured with a young lady (whose picture had been preconcertedly shown him) it gave her no apparent ~~uneasiness~~ concern; well knowing that the influence of her rival could be but temporary.

& dignify the gall of the misanthrope ~~with~~

to all the sons

"-bability effect when completed the finding out
" the Longitude at sea. But Mr. Harrison repre-
" -senting that his circumstances are such, that
" he shall not be able to compleat his said
" machine, unless he can be supplied with the
" sum of £500, & that with such encouragement
" he will undertake &c." — The application thus
supported was successful; but pending the affair,
& also at different times, when the candidate who
had given up every other pursuit, was under
similar difficulties, he lent him money with-
-out security, & without interest. As if even this
was insufficient, he joined those who made him
pecuniary presents: for that Graham was still
"among the rest," are the words of John Harrison:
— an assurance which may be justly adduced
to correct the spleen of the satirist who [illegible]
[illegible] of men. Much should be told
that George Graham emulated that antiquity
records of the city command of its favourite
philosopher Socrates — That the cynic who
so quaintly pretended to search for an honest

321/-322-323

New paragraph

man, would have thrust him into his tub,
if there had been room enough for both. —
Had Pope been acquainted
with his merit in the use, not of riches, but of
a competence the fruits of his industry, there
would have been no occasion to bring it for-
ward thus. For the virtue of him —

Who built a house to God, & not to Fame,

was not enhanced by a
victory over the strongest incentives to the
malevolent passions. To page 325 continued

the counter interests & opposing
views in those whom the legislature as it happen-
ed had made his judges & which the
journal has preserved the reader will be surprised
to John Harrison sufficiently disturbed by the rivalry
of George Earl of Morton, President of the Royal Society
who notwithstanding that imposing designation was,
from other passages indicative of his overbearing
deportment to have been a pettifogging half witted person-
age one of those who "sat their hour upon the stage" nei

-ther much to their own satisfaction, nor that of their neighbours. His scientific ambition was sufficient to stimulate him to contest the honour, if not the reward for the discovery with the candidate & an involuntary exclamation at a meeting before the second voyage, that "Harrison will get all the "money" was regarded as consonant to this latent desire & yet the following scene which occurred at a board 30th. May, 1765 when all was harmony not after the case might resolve the dismay of the humble competitor into a laughable degree of variety in the northern seer.

After business was dispatched, Dr. Long Lowndes Professor of Astronomy, Cambridge asked Mr. Harrison a few questions concerning the principles of his Timekeeper, & of the difference between it & a common watch; which questions were all answered by Mr. Harrison. Lord Morton then said "Gentlemen "one of the grand principles in Mr. Harrison's Time "keeper, I have known for some years, but I have ne-"-ver told it to man, woman, or child &, when you "come to know it, I do assure you, you will be much "surprised & I do say, that if you were to set all the "mechanics in London about it, they would all go quite "the wrong way; & you will find it is a most

having, or having not, a seat there
my Lord Morton,

excellent discovery."

It would have been well if his Lordships pretensions to this great consideration had evaporated in such harmless ebullitions but his opposition assumed a far more inveterate & injurious form, giving occasion to the following passage in a printed tract in 1770 in which year John Harrison after adverting to the refusal of the Commissioners to lend him the successful watch, which they had ordered by them, though it was of vital importance to facilitate the construction of another, & the injury there accruing both to himself & the country, continues — "while the late President of the Royal Society, who had great influence at the board of Longitude was worrying in all companies, a resolution to insist on sending him to the most distant & inhospitable parts of the world, before he should receive the rest of the reward." — That great influence at the Board of Longitude was not to be doubted, for they had adopted, it would be civil to suppose, without reading it, his plan for the examination of the Timekeeper at Hampstead Hill, in which after redundant precautions to prevent im-

325 / continued

~~a Bordet's connection found the Pacific from a voyage to Hudson's Bay which John Hudson at that time undertook, but not effectually, the commissioners, which would contain it, with the opinions of his as before. and the Arctic~~

from 6

brought into contact with ~~brought into contact~~

ines planning to push their fortunes rapidly in the world, yet it

[illegible] to the [illegible], he left the utterance [illegible] to the unjustified power of an [illegible] [illegible] information reserved [illegible] [illegible] he may view the conduct of this liberal [illegible] [illegible], may serve for a [illegible] to all [illegible] unbiassed Characters de- [illegible] of the [illegible] 2nd [illegible] reason for [illegible] to the above fact is that the [illegible] [illegible] by a friend solicitous to clear William Penn described the circumstance that the voyage [illegible] Penn's Brig, in [illegible], was owing for part of the corruption & ingenuity with which [illegible] [illegible] at Cowes & that in Regard the King testified manifested great indignation at the circum- stance, as being so wide a deviation from the [illegible] the original contract.

323 A further enquiry after the private interest, private resentments, & peculiarities, private or public, of some of the leading characters John Harrison was [illegible] in the course of his arduous enterprise, though it might form a curious Panorama for young would be deviating too distantly from the Author's [illegible] purpose. But the following trait, as too remark-

our Mechanicals pursuits

-able to be passed by. & may be introduced as an appendix to the merits of Lord Morton, which are inscribed with which his lordships discovery is recorded is scarcely dry. — Among John Harrison's from ◇ 310
earlier scientific friends was Doctor Robert Smith, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, Professor of Astronomy, & author of a work ~~[illegible]~~ Lond in musical libraries, under the title of Smith's Harmonics. — The musical accordance of time was secondary only to the mensuration of it, in [illegible]; & these geniuses had frequent discussions to solve some problem for

Untwisting all the chains that tie
The hidden soul of harmony.

In the solution of it, however, they touched a string too discordant for the softest notes of friendship; they return to ◇ 310
differed on some point with a degree of acrimony on the part of the Cantabrician, surprising & characteristic in its consequences: for not having the candour to separate the cause of the mechanician from that of the musical amateur, he left his associate to inform the world, that from being his zealous friend in the affair of the Longitude, he became, from that time, his bitter

from whom John Harrison's separation cost him tears;
~~for he relates, (page 181 of his Description &c) was more~~
as he tells us, & which shows his mind to have been of no
coarse texture, nor insensible to such impressions as are
commonly usually thought to do honour to our nature

___ The severest mental trial that human virtue can be ex-
posed to; and an example

enemy; which, as the profession chair gave him a seat at the Board, he had too much opportunity of evincing. The conduct of this Divine [illegible] wholly to be imputed to his unfortunate friend by its contrast with the inimitable urbanity of George Graham; with whom it appears [illegible] Dr. Smith had colloquial intercourse. He was also present at the meeting at which Graham came forward so ardently in support of a rival who was to supplant him in the commendation of his contemporaries & of posterity. [illegible] which might have taught a heathen, as well as a Christian worshiper (& minister) to tame that wild beast which Frederic 2d. observed "every man carries "in his breast."

This extract is from a journal of much curiosity & interest with reference to the object of the Bust & not less so as an epitome of the difficulties & discouragements which a man of uncommon genius in humble life may have to contend with, not so much in the specimen he gives of his talents as from the jarring elements that form the compound which

that the intimate union subsisting in the two united kingdoms

Admiralty & other

much

Pope thought "The proper study of mankind".
— It goes into detail & gives the pith & marrow of transactions of which the minutes of the Board of Longitude furnish only a meagre outline.
The cause of the filling up of the canvas appears to have been that till the year 1761 the highly respectable scientific recommendations which the candidate brought with him were by virtue of a clause in the act of the 12th Queen Anne enabling them to assist injurious neglect followed up with promptitude on the part of the commissioners in voting him the pecuniary aid necessary to the production of his labours & for which he was no ways deficient in gratitude but from the time [illegible] it seemed to have become a Shibboleth that the mechanics should carry off all the honour, as well as the emoluments of the discovery to the prejudice of men of superior science such symptoms of jealousy were manifest in the University scatterers, to whom the [illegible] at the Board were disposed to yield great deference as [illegible]

[redacted] 321

William Harrison

induced a persuasion in the father & son / an apprehension verified in the sequel / that whatever might be the result of their experiments or however correct the Timekeeper might prove such difficulties & obstacles which they could at all times command would arise from that quarter as would procrastinate the payment of the reward sine die. For their own reference therefore in subsequent life — for the satisfaction of their descendants; & of the friends of the family — in brief that all might bear witness they could not be reproached with neglect or supineness in the event of this dreaded cause of failure they regularly committed to paper this narrative which commences 12th March 1761 with [redacted] receiving instructions to proceed to Portsmouth & is continued down to the delivering up of the three machines [redacted] constructed previously to the successful Timekeeper on the 23d. of May 1766 — It is not in the handwriting of either of the Harrison's with the exception of a few corrections by the son: but must have been transcribed from a rough copy, afterwards thrown away, or from their notes. — It

He was the Father of Counsellor Thomas W. Williams, well known by his compilations of judicial reports, which have been well received among the profession.

George 3d. of these United Kingdoms, will be found

united by Wright Brown at intervals of

extends to 113 folio pages & from circumstances the
author believes it to have been written out by Wal-
ter Williams, an attorney, a particular friend of
the junior Harrison, who latterly was secretary
to the Apothecaries company, & as such resided
at their hall in Blackfriars. — It had not the
smallest reference to publication, & was not known
to be in existence when after the lapse of half a
century it was fortunately discovered among the books that
had constituted the library of John & afterwards
of William Harrison. — Fortunately, the Author
repeats — for as his late Majesty will be found
to have totally differed in opinion with
the Commissioners at a subsequent period, & was to
have severely censured their conduct, a fact such
as described greatly facilitated them
it prolonged the use of his pen; and though the trans-
actions adverted to, a topic of common
parlance in that day, are now reconnoitred by the
public through Time's reversed telescope a new
interest, or at least some amusement, may be
the near rehearsal, which though kept
behind the scenes till the performers shall be perfect

in an anonymous vessel, the discovery of the Longitude on board which still awaits confirmation

~~becomes an insult to the memory of this scientific~~
~~Frenchman by having~~

in their parts by the prompter's book, does not effec-tually conceal the springs & wires of their movements manufactured perhaps in an Oxford or a Cambridge com-mon room, or in the state room on the return voyage of the rev.d Neil Maskelyne from Barbadoes — ~~The discovery of the Longitude in which still awaits confirmation & over the name of the vessel so honour-~~ ~~never transpired.~~

M.r Madge jun.r who at a subsequent period came forward in behalf of his father outstript this suggestion for he believed the whole power & influ-ence of the Commissioners to be concentrated in Dr. Maskelyne to whom the rest of the Board in effect relinquished the management of the common concern & begged not to be thought to answer them of participatory in the ill treatment he remonstra-ted against

However whose diligence has not been repeatedly frustrated by the carelessness of a ship, independent of other causes, ma-

plead inexperience & misconception on the subject but for Dr. Maskelyne who had twice embarked on Thetis' tranquilized bosom, anon, to hear the Lowing of the roaring deep under the counter or the quarter.

who had diurnally propitiated Luna in the mariners behalf &, albeit, in his own — who yet, never ventured to publish her favours for so good a reason as that they amounted to nothing — that an Astronomer Royal in embrio, so prosperous in theory, & so backward in practice, should persevere in not discriminating between the rolls, the oscillations & wet jackets of the quarter deck & the stability of Plumstead Hill under cover as was ever the case with this gentleman & may be seen in his pamphlet in answer to the young Mudge in which he adverts to the Longitude by the moon solely as an abstract question & without reference to the disparity between the respective faculties on ship-board & on shore, might amuse by its curiosity if the subject were not too serious, & as illustrative too unhappily the common prosperity the darling prejudice of the maritime as well as the weaker sex to believe what is wished to be true as further supporting the argument in Pope's Ethics where it is contended that

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The same passions may be recognized in the most opposite results which the individual bigot or fanatic can give than. That

The fiery soul abhorred in Catiline

In Decius charms, in Curtius is divine.

Thus, the founder of the Carthusians (casually alluded to above) with an over-measure of zeal, not according to knowledge, would have annihilated all the social propensities of man's nature to insure his converts the favour of the Apostle with the golden keys; and Neil Mackelyne with the same enthusiasm, the flames of which he could not keep under the hatches at Barbados, with more than the faith of the historian of Winchester in our Lady of Walsingham, or of Demetrius the silversmith in Diana of the Ephesians believed & required all wayfaring men to give credence to the assertion as they valued their worldly salvation & like that of their wives & little ones that "the lunar method is an absolute method of finding the Longitude wherever lost." These are his words

[illegible] and

seldom has a public man compromised his under-

produce his vouchers for such an indispensable or-
ordinary

-nitude They do not appear in haste to certify you that
the results are in general satisfactorily to be depend-
-ed on. While, again,

-studies more unprofitably for he could no more
[redacted] than S.t Francis could have fast
-ed forty days. The Author though often soli-
-citing the honour never had that of being introdu
-d to any of Neptune's family from Lieutenant Boz
-ley to Captain Whiffle who valued such an annun
-ciation more than Wesley would have done an ange
-l sent by express from the sovereign Pontiff. On the
contrary the general answer he has received from the
gentlemen of the navy on an enquiry of such uncom
-mon interest has been that observations of the moon
may be had 6 days out of the 28 if the weather
clear & the ship steady reservations which amount
almost to a nullity yet with a drawback of such may
such is the perverseness of mankind as the Lar
-rkarian & the astronomer would have both agreed
that young men continue to kiss
maids in all countries with more carnal than pious
thoughts & in our own sea officers both warrant & com
-missioned contumaciously prefer their chronometer
& the lunar tables contrary to the reiterated precept
& manifold exhortations of the scientific enthusiast.

But it is proper the Author should hasten to

which Jovited the Ignatius Loyola of the Lunarsect.

the merchants service, in which, as may be anticipated, the benefits of this precarious speculation in science, [illegible] on the Atlantic, are at a low water mark for if the officers of the navy, better educated in general & with far more leisure, are often baffled by its difficulties, how can mercantile commanders who are usually noted for plodding industry rather than elaborate researches be expected to guide their vessels through the trackless deep "when neither moon, nor stars are seen for many nights" by a method that to them will seem like the accomplishment of Sir Hudibras, who

would distinguish & divide
A hair 'twixt south & southwest side

and would chop logic on his premises anon. It is with regret that the Author instead of apologizing for a remark that may be thought overstretched finds constrained on the contrary to augment its unfavourable purport for at one of the four great seaports of the kingdom where he sojourned more than one season he was well assured that a great proportion of the masters of vessels were ignorant of the process for ascertaining time & space & thence computing their Longitude by the chronometer

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as simple as it is. So much for the method is reference is of no more use than would a dissertation on metaphysics to a fishwife or a fruit seller.

There are exceptions as might be expected but unfortunately they only strengthen the enemies works & encourage his demonstrations for an intelligent young Captain of the Author's acquaintance Earnest-ed to him the extreme difficulty attendg the ob-servations, & that with all possible care he could not avoid an error equal to which is the less surprising since so eminent an astrono-mer as Dr. Halley who had the ardour of Neveil Mas-kelyne without his sanguine & illusory temperam-ent never appreciated the lunar proofs higher than his plain experience warranted & it was very great, hav-ing arrived from a voyage to the south sea. He would immediately have affixed his signature to the vote of the directors against this method, had he heard the mariner exerted to please his chief Defendence on it. The 6 days during which the moon is too near the sun for any purpose whatever it may happen as I believe one of frequent necessity for an observation because the sun is otherwise

other days in the lower mea

of falling in with land, the first notice of which they may have by finding themselves unfortunately embayed on a rocky shore, if the breakers are not already under the bow. For 12 or 13 other "these luminaries are either at too great a distance or are not at the same time visible" so that the sole dependence in this extended interval must be on observations of the moon & some fixed star. Just when the Doctor jointly with D. Davis (for the latter deposed to the House of Commons) attempted (on shore) with an excellent Hadley's quadrant, rectified by the inventor, & in his presence, to take the angular distance between the moon & Aldebaran some of the observations removed Greenwich from itself almost as far as Paris! The remaining 9 days may, in danger of being rendered abortive. or while "the place of the sun by reason of his superior brightness & splendour can be readily determined by day, yet, in the same weather, neither moon nor stars may be visible at night." D. Bradley does to a certain period when the natural rise of age exerts their illusory prospects by the help of the marine chair. words acknowledge to John Harrison the latter

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endeavoury of all the attempts (including his own)
to procure a safe standard for finding the Longitude
by the satellite. If the moon is to scientific foreseen
-ing it is no ways more satisfactory for keeping
by Professor Mayer, because it is understood he nev-
-er was at sea, the celebrated Abbe de la Caille who
embarked on the element several times purposely to
satisfy himself on the subject, (see it (vol. 5th page 31
of Ephemerides, as quoted by ~~[illegible]~~ the observant
with the assistance of a friend) "that any person would
"be in the wrong to suppose that the Longitude at sea
"can be determined by the moon to a less error than
"two degrees, let the method which is employed be
"never so perfect, let the instruments of the sort now
"in use [1755] be never so excellent, & let the observer be the
"most able & accomplished." The contest, which for
brevity, we omit, increases the probable error to two
degrees & a half. To this reference is followed up
by our mechanic, who, though only thought to be
no mean proficient in the mathematical sciences,
with such a Member as that "I beg leave to
"call upon Mr. Maskelyne & Mr. Green to declare
"how near they, with Admiral Tyrrel, agreed in deter-
"mining their Longitude by the sun & moon in their
"voyage to Barbadoes; & also whether during that
"voyage they ever did determine their Longitude by

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the moon & stars. — I know they did not, for they found the observation too difficult, & said this only true in Theory. Now the occupant of Flamstead Hill could oppose his own opinion to that of the ablest astronomers in Europe & yet not exhibit such a paucity of resources when thus suddenly challenged for he never ventured to bring forward Admiral Tyrrel or any of his officers, & assuredly not Mr. Green is for the learned Secretary of the Admiralty to say who comes forward as a zealous missionary of this propaganda & in March 18 on occasion of bringing forward his bill for consolidating the several acts of Parliament relative to the Longitude after some other historical data which though interesting it were rather at variance with the poets dogma to insert here, that "order is Heavens first law" a rule of practical application to subjects as well as persons the introductory particulars informs us that "a Frenchman, "of the name of Morin, in the time of Louis 13. first "hit on the idea of finding the Longitude by means "of Lunar observations. But, in consequence of the "want of Lunar tables, the plan failed, & was generally "by scouted at the time. It was, however, extraordinary, that that which was originally thrown aside,

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is unlikely to lead to a successful result, was not relied on with the greatest confidence." This last observation chimes perfectly in unison with Dr. Maskelyne's flourishes on the same string, whose perfidious

duty persuades us wholly to consider him, but can he produce any sailor worth his salt who will back his marine to confirm the assertion.

Of what use could Mayer's tables have been to Sir Clondesly Shovel & his unhappy shipmates in the gale of wind in which the hon.ble Secretary finds he lost his reckoning? And — on the contrary, was not the decided superiority of a chronometer strikingly evident, when Admiral Campbell (as that commander was wont to relate) approached those fatal rocks near the conclusion of a voyage from Newfoundland, carrying a press of sail in the night, having previously to his officers, from a time-keeper by M.r Mudge, that they would see the Lizard next morning, which accordingly they did. But it afterwards appeared, that the seamen in the other ships, their reckonings being up, were impressed with apprehension & astonishment, expecting every moment the fate of Sir Clondesly. Certainly, had Admiral Campbell, who, Dr. Maskelyne tells us, was

Even if the observations are made

Nevil Maskelyne assures us was well skilled in the lunar process, would have thought the sentiment half brother to some Cub imported from the "emerald Isle" along with Mr. Croker himself that his method should be relied on with the greatest confidence, which a common succession of cloudy nights or of blowing weather may totally frustrate. If under such adverse circumstances, the late Astronomer Royal, varying from the proverb always found hope a good supper as well as a sufficient breakfast, such sanguine diet the learned Secretary should be told is not adapted to the public palate, though nobody will hinder him from taking a taste of it himself & some days would indulge him with a surfeit / if he can be persuaded to join the Gatekeeper's under circumstances considered favourable at sea of strains which stretches conjecture that the nautical astronomers of the present century should have vanquished overcome all the difficulties that foiled their predecessors on terra firma in the last. no thanks are due to the learned secretary for leaving us to scramble out of this catastrophe if we can without imparting a salutary and — hint from his

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[illegible] difference or that of some friend or a friend of that friend. He continues "This [the discovery of the Longitude by John Harrison] was effected merely by a chronometer. The difference of Longitude was easily discovered by the difference of [illegible] time. There were but two ways, however, of arriving at a true knowledge of the Longitude. The one was by a watch set at the country from which a ship departed, & afterwards compared with the time of the country to which she proceeded. The comparison evidently gave the distance in time, which was afterwards reduced to space. The other mode was by taking observations of the moon, in relation to a fixed star, which was the surest method. The one was a mechanical, the other a scientific mode of arriving at the same conclusion."

So two persons can be effected to arrive at the same conclusion who differ so widely in their premises as now, for the boundary thus set up a belt of between science & mechanism, effectively like the belt of the 'celestial empire' from sea to sea across the whole field of enterprize is not worth [illegible] for a sight of it there we doubt the durability of the materials above the surface: nor will the Boundation be required for at the Admiralty, unless by some gentleman to whom it may be as good as the Difference

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between the two may be conceived. That the matter of a particular wheel or other movement or fixture in watch work which depends on an accuracy of eye in hand or on that of some machine it is cut out with is mechanical in the sense in which Mr Brahma uses the term as contra distinguished from science I have no occasion to dispute but it is very different if the enquiry stands to the principles that enter into the construction of an accurate chronometer or the combination of these with the calculations they are founded on can never either be accomplished by a person deficient in those sciences usually connected with mechanics at both our universities. This may be illustrated with some propriety by informing the honourable Secretary that the Discoverer of the Longitude was gratified to have questioned him pertinently concerning his progress in those sciences connected with the lunar, or with the solar method as they may be respectively called of attaining the desired object. Such a guarantine by our mechanic might have tempered the scientific zeal of the learned gentleman without prejudice to the public spirit

to the admiration of the fresh water compeers till he arrives which

nor yet to the private worth with which he battled & victualled himself March 1818 to take possession of the public suffrages as well as those of the House. But as, according to Addison, "a dash of the coxcomb" is ever a constituent part of a well bred man, which we presume Mr. Croker is so courtesy nothing of common usages, & reading your under-writing to Old Nick, he loosens his sails on an intricate sea perplexed with shoals like the constitution of the Board of Longitude, which he states has not been altered for near a century and —— having embarked his intellectual capital in this adventure he proceeds prosperously with a plowing chart [redacted] soundings when to the discredit of his nautical skill, he brings up with his ground tackle on a foul bottom! In swinging round, for want of sufficient depth, his stern tails on the mouth with a thumping crash & dismal ado, lamentable to hear; upon, the surest method of finding the longitude; such that "which is now relied on with the greatest confidence" is among the first of his

possessions or prospections that goes overboard together with most of his standing rigging — Rope & figure outfits; & a few tons of perishable articles that no jolly tar would exchange a cargo of for. Since having often found the utility of a chronometer when he might have thought the log by its uncertainty fit only for copperheads; & when the moon & fixed stars were neither here nor there (as the mountebank said of his master's estate) he would be disposed to listen a Board of Longitude without a practical mechanician among them to a ship without a carpenter & the pumps hoisted; or to a Board of Admiralty without — M.r Secretary Croker, to wit. The ascendancy of science over mechanics in the mind of this zealous lunar [illegible] according to the erroneous distinction which he is earnest to preserve between them is enough to divest the imputation of extravagance which supposes that a proficiency in the former being at all times becoming an officer & a gentleman, so, for the good of the service, to excite emulation & increase the deference of the crew to their superiors he would promote the use of [illegible] his favourite method on the quarter deck & in the ward room while the mechanical [illegible]

mechanical process being attended with little or no

process, being attended with little or no difficulty, if
chronometer
-apt. Lee's price of a good one seems fitter consigned
to the Bow bells Chronicle — with the proviso
unless in cases of sheer necessity, which, alas! as if
to show "the vanity of human wishes" whenever
Mr Quiet's Spheres touch into Two Sides
are of ordinary occurrence &, in the common phrase,
might compel the learned Secretary to eat his
own words — which, being indigestible like new
milk Cheese after a bottle too much Mr learned Se-
-cretary if not "as Dead as any Door nail", is Con, be-
-comes so in reason & would have been ordered to be
buried without Delay by that competent judge I-
-mean Dickenstaff. Since his Illustration invests
his argument he is playing at cross-purposes with
himself his sheet anchor, after all, proving not
to be the surest method; for he proceeds in this
fashion " The Longitude, as found by a chronome-
-ter, was discovered to vary very little from the real
Longitude, if he might be allowed to use that peculiar
" expression, since, indeed, there was no real Longitude.
" Suppose, for instance, the true Longitude of St Helena
" was 5 Deg. 43 min. 30 sec. — Capt. Martin erred it
" out 5 Deg. 38 min. 36 sec. — Capt. Maywood 5 Deg. 39 min.

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His Majesty's ship Bucephalus agreed exactly with the true time 5 Dy. 43 min. 30 sec. — Unity is practical perfection —

So wide is art, so narrow human view,
he might say, that so long deprived of object of scientific research, the Longitude, was now discovered. Within so small a fraction had the computations been carried, that for practical purposes it was discovered. Still mechanical instruments were liable to decay — & to improve the lunar method, was still a great subject for legislation.

The first part of the brief practical dissertation quotation do not apply to the dominant assertion of the speaker, viz., consistently with the superiority which he inculcates, of the rational over the mechanical method made they should have been, "how vast is science!" the other half of the line, "how narrow human view" he illustrates himself, by so unwisely upholding the claims of the astronomers, to after faults, as they do, in practice, however plausible in theory, over the more valuable, because (on his own showing) more successful labours of the clock & watch maker. What would have become of the learned gentleman if the parties injured, as they would think they were by this unjustifiable preference, were

ordy

fleets of the navy bound either to the East or West Indies

to determine their Longitude

"redoubt of joy & youth" to recollect a

to ask him, if he does not know it is necessary the lunar observer should be provided with a chronometer sufficiently accurate to find the longitude by the sun, for if it will not, neither is it adapted to guide, by the moon which revolves the whole year not into what, with due deference, they might call a scientific truth, & par hazard, before the author of it could be relieved from the prying fear, he would fall into the fire, if challenged to a direct trial an exclusive test of the merits of the respective methods which is easily reported to for the writer on the part of the aggrieved knows more than one mercantile captain who confidence in his chronometer exceeds him to forego the usual reckoning by the day. And, no doubt, many of would be happy to receive Mr. Crotch's commands to the same effect. But were it proposed to them to abide solely by lunar observations engaging not to refer to the chronometer by day, nor to leave the log at any time the Secretary of Insolvency might have occasion for his pen in the old tale of the tyger that swallowed a tailor

The Doctor having heard the case
Burst into laughter in his face.

Bounties, indeed, to a certain extent or Improve-
-ten competently alleged to have kept the Loyi-
-lede Mk with a degree of correctness, hereafter
it be determined might be of more service to the
country than some of those or more disputed pois-
nous politicians for the encouragement of trade
or of enterprize. But no tangible advantages
are offered to the mechanic to persuade him
is unproved that there is still good scope for such
improvements / & the rewards connected therewith /
consistently with which the leader feature the pro-
-posed enactment is
-shares in the vessels from the log-book of the Shee

The extraordinary & unprecedented circumstance of the Longitude being found without a fraction, if a visit to St. Helena, would have much improved the elucidation of the subject, if it had suggested an enquiry of the Burnsphatus after the name & address of so accurate a mechanic & had this, again, been followed up by proper information communicated to the commissioners of Longitude, that such merit might not be overlooked [redacted] the correctness of the Nautical Almanac — a desirable object certainly but not of that prime importance which his situation instruct us to attach to an accurate chronometer. And the defect of the commission of Longitude in its unrevised, being the same as in its original constitution — that one of the principal classes of persons engaged in the navigation is exclusively represented at the Board by the other would it not have met the public eye more properly in the person of a person so practically skilful in nautical had been included in the new arrangement if deemed found to be subsequently requisite in a few

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their particulars though he had never seen an University. Or if —

— have threatning difficulties dire
interposed yet. if the learned gentleman's patriotism
is above par, as it were but decent to suppose,
would he not have invited him to his sunday din-
ner, or, which might have been more flattering,
recommended him to the first Lord of the Admi-
ralty for the same distinction, that "he might
"have honour of those that sat at meat with
"him" at his mistress's &c.

Without attempting to throw a shade
of doubt on the honourable motives of the Se-
cretary of the Admiralty the public have too
much reason to regret that part of his comple-
-tating bill exclusively confined to the Londonish
he has given all his attention to the capitals
the column to the neglect of the shafts & the pe-
-destals — which the gentlemen of Liverpool, as
enamoured with science as M. Cotter but less
disposed to pause in Utopia & duly minded that "a
"layer of the Attic" should precede "a layer of the

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"Dulce" conversant, moreover, with the art & mystery
(& a most necessary one it is) of applying Ships to
their effective purposes (a talent which Pedagogues
heretofore exemplified on many a member of the
Chambre has in embrio neither in the most dexterous
nor possibly in some cases in the most unexceptionable way
consult the interests of their seafaring or sea adven-
turing friends must better as the following extract
from the discourse of the President of the Royal
Institution in that city at the anniversary meeting
on Friday March 1824 may show. —

"[redacted]. Notwithstanding the suggestions occasionally
"urged that the objects of this Institution are already
"too numerous, it was determined to proceed the erection
"of an observatory. It had long been a matter of surprise,
"that whilst the importance of ascertaining the true time
"for the determination of a ships Longitude on the back
"less ocean was generally acknowledged, a port of the most
"extensive intercourse in the world should be destitute of
"an establishment for correcting the marine Chronometers.
"The mariner was under the necessity of entrusting his
"Chronometer into the hands of a private individual to
"ascertain its ratio, in a town where no regular observa-
"tion was kept, nor one transit instrument of considerable

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"size & ordinary of construction. The committee, therefore,
"already possessed of astronomical instruments of great
"value, had agreed on the propriety of erecting an observ-
"atory; which, while it would be highly useful to the in-
"terests of navigation, & would mark their respect for the
"scientific commanders of ships, whose skill had giv-
"en such unprecedented celerity to distant voyages,
"would, it was hoped, be useful to the Institution. A
"moderate stipulated charge in the regulation of ships'
"chronometers, it was expected, would afford an adequate
"salary to an efficient astronomical observer, one of
"whose duties it would be to keep an accurate meteo-
"rological register; thus affording in addition to the
"promotion of the interests of navigation, materials to
"acquire knowledge in a difficult but interesting
"branch of general science. He expressed a sincere
"wish that the Proprietors would take the subject in-
"to their consideration, & honour it by their spe-
"cial approval. The funds of the institution would
"admit of nothing beyond a plain brick building, un-
"less the Trading Associations should be induced to
"patronize & encourage the desirable object in view."

Passing by the meteorological register;
because, however proper the suggestion was in its
place, it is only a hindrance to navigable thoughts
the writer was not quite prepared to find the gentle-
men of Liverpool contemplating objects & purposes of
far more practical utility than the learned Secretary

with his scientific muster roll appears to entertain
sine, for one vessel rescued from shipwreck by such
a coy business as that of the moon & a fixed star, at
least a dozen may be sent safe into port by persist-
-ing Time with a chronometer instead of his Cross-
-staff & substituting a quadrant for the scythe. Cap
-tivated by the charms of science as distinguished from
the more vulgar features of (her ugly sister) mechan-
-ism the Secretary leans more to the means than to
the end of the whole purpose and though a chrono-
-meter nor a theo will not, as a matter of courtesy, it
is presumed be refused to be rectified by the Astron-
-omer Royal yet there is no officious establish-
-ment of the above description in or near London, for
the benefit of the merchants service nor even of the
Royal Navy which best consideration if it be fav-
-ourable to adopt the singular & coarse title of a work
by the pious Baxter, ought to operate as "a" shove
for a heavy and Christian. Sine, By reason that the
Prospectus of the new act, does not contain
afford the slightest allusion to a deficiency which
Mr. Heywood, with more felicitous judgment, has
pointed out to his enlightened associates, & with their wonted remedy.

from Δ 526 new paragraph To this dreary vista, he might have added, & the consideration becomes an in-
-delible stigma on the conduct of those who contrived to divest his labours of any terminable point, that they knew he was at an age at which almost all men desire to have the evening of life to themselves. It is true, his ardent spirit never brooked long repose, but that idea does not lessen the scandalous treatment he received for to □

~~[illegible]~~

~~— of temporary rest, for this~~

~~advert spirit never troubled [illegible] appear, but~~

the difference need scarce be pointed out,
between the labour of choice, & that by
compulsion, to mankind in general, & particu-
-larly to such men as John Harrison.

In some gentlemen of the Royal
Society may recollect a circumstance not seem-
-ingly in coincidence with several passages in this
memoir the author anticipates an natural objec-
-tion from them to his exposure of the unscientific
party animosity which a trait in George 3,
called on him thus to advert to. He is aware
that notwithstanding a vicarly carried to such
lengths, William Harrison & Nevil Maskelyne,
who were both blessed with longevity, & had been
Members of that distinguished body when young,
after having survived all their contemporaries of
the Royal Society, might be seen sitting on the
same form in civil colloquial intercourse at the

winter meetings in Somerset Place. Why then
idenly raise the embers of discord between these
two astients thus blandly disposed? say they
& the objection is entitled to every respect.
but it is the case of Locke & not of William
Harrison that is the primary consideration
here. The latter unlike his father who (as
elsewhere observed) [redacted] felt the rising pre-
-sion strong in death had changed the cha-
-racter of an eminent mechanician & of the
large portion of genius he inherited for the
designation of a country gentleman in the
commission of the peace by which through
he acquitted himself creditably he could ne
more be known than the author of Joseph
Andrews was by being a London magistrate.
Nine though he continued ineffectually
opposed to the Astronomer Royal, yet having
lost all energy in the [redacted] of his father's
discoveries which it cannot be concealed it
was his duty to have [redacted] strenuously
prosecuted & by which he might have hand-
-somely The treatment they had both

German predilections

& determined [illegible] not to be so vilely
thwarted any longer [illegible]
[illegible] by this [illegible] of a constitution, which bore
no resemblance to that he had left at Hanover,
where [illegible] no man could contradict him, but at his peril.
— Had George 3.d

"That if he had a mind to try what Experiments he would
"[illegible] it did not matter any thing to them. [illegible] they had nothing to do
"with it. — The Board have said what they would
"have done, & they will not alter their orders." In having
said so, & [illegible] by this authoritative
language of defiance, were they not

[illegible] would have shown his
[illegible] resemble as his Grandfather, who never forgot his
[illegible], & was once found at the head of some
companies of his guards, in the court yard at St James's
firing the sword he had used at the battle of Sadowa.
[illegible] determined not to be [illegible] thwarted any longer by
[illegible] machinery [illegible] which [illegible]
we say, who excelled in that suavity which becomes a Dia-
-mond of the first water in a Monarch's crown,
[illegible] he would [illegible]
[illegible] he would in that severity which
[illegible], bear of the same composition as his predecessor, he would
immediately have sent for one or more of the Judges, or the
Attorney & Solicitor General; certainly for some respon-
-sible functionaries; & submitted to them (as well as
his agitation & vehemence would allow) that the Com-
-missioners of Longitude having told him "no regard
would be had to the results of any trial of a Timekeeper,
or Watch machine, under his immediate inspection"
[illegible] guilty of a high misdemeanour & a contempt of the
Legal Office, which it was his duty to uphold, to support
the dignity of, & to claim the respect due from every subject
to the Crown, or he could not say he [illegible]
was transmitting the [illegible] of it unimpaired to his
successors. And — in conclusion, requiring to
know if there was no way to deal with those persons
who had shown him this outrage. — We need not doubt, it
would be alleged in behalf of their Client, by one or other of
the authorities consulted / had been best to gain time.

a conciliating make-weight for [illegible] in this toleration of part of-
-fences which we will just glance at was

[illegible] would have sworn had
united from the lunar junta at the Board of
Longitude he was now regarded by that party as
an inefficient supporter of the cause in which
ever he had suffered such acute mental anx-
-iety & personal fatigue. [redacted]

[redacted] That Will-
-am Harrison had married an amiable lady
whose mother as it happened had been the
intimate friend of the Doctor's maternal
parent.

After the death of John Harrison,
William, who had no small portion of his genius but
was of a different cast of mind made some efforts
to follow up his plans & among his papers after his
decease were found the calculations for two watches
of different powers of movement with which he
proceeded so far as to have prepared for each the
plates technically called which are now in pos-
-session of his son in law. These timekeepers were
professedly after his father's method, except the
escapement & consequently rendering them sleeper

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James

Line 6313+ In what key he would have sworn had
which, as the principal difficulty attending this
construction seems to have had a reference to
the offence was a very material consideration. An
opinion which the Author remembers seeing was also
prepared for cutting the teeth in their wheels but
this promising beginning was no ways followed up
adequately. All that the narrator knows here leads
to the inference that William Harrison must have
looked to the navy for the purchase of his machine
when completed, but having wrought himself into an
opinion that the influence of the latter party in
that quarter would defeat his purpose object thereto
by such it might be deemed considering
the tide of public opinion ran so strongly in favour
of a chronometer when compared with the lunar
tables being it is likely magnified by some igno-
-rious or interested friend he failed in that per-
-suasion for which his predecessor had been
as well as for his consummate skill. The disparity
indeed between the father & son in this view was re-
-markable for the former pursued his labours con amore
enjoyed the well earned fame his merits acquired him
& apart from such offices as his experiments re-

& the same ardor after Chronometrick mechanism

Lee 6313+ In what key he would have sworn had
-quired had his family been out of the question would
have willingly sat down with a stipend adequate to
his few wants. The junior on the contrary suffered
his energy to evaporate in calculations of profit
or loss & relinquishing the credit that would have
accrued from the attempt, even if he had failed,
in competency with M. Mudge, who now began to
come forward in the same enterprise he is found
embarking in speculations quite foreign to his original
destination & by which he rather injured than improv-
-ed his fortune.

From John Harrison & his successor the Pre-
-sident is inscribable to his only brother, James, who
though unknown to the public unless by name at
most had a full measure of the same curiosity
& the same predilection for music,
being by his business a Bellfounder. Though not twins,
they might have been likened to the Castor & Pollux
of antique fable. The nearest resemblance
the author is aware of in modern biography is that
of the celebrated anatomists William & John Hunter.
and an unhappy coincidence between these frater-
-nities is that the two brothers were at variance

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from §313+ In what key he would have sworn, had the minutes of the Commissioners on such a date purported like those of the Board in London, November 28th 1772, ~~was~~ or even half as undecorously to one who, with the stamp of his booted foot could raise a hundred thou-sand myrmidons we know not. But judging by the ac-counts of those who were best acquainted with this un-common Monarch, from whom Prussia derived a super-ior, but short lived consequence, ~~[illegible]~~ the stormy effect of such a grenade thrown into his tent, would have been satis supergue.

Note for page 3. □ Δ Of the following three letters, Capt.n Proc-tor's will be read with ~~particular~~ interest; as evincing that John Harrison ~~(then in the prime of life, being 42)~~ had none of those repulsive irregularities that too often characterize ma-of uncommon genius. He was then in the prime of life, being 42; & such was the report of the Officer in whose ship he had been embarked. Here insert the letters from Sir Charles Major, Captain Proctor & Mr. Wills. Where are they?

from §3. □ ~~See No. in the Appendix~~ It is given at No. in the Appendix. Where is the Appendix?

from §48 Note at ○ Neither would they have so done, it may be said, had not some manœuvres of the Lunar-advocates at the Board [of which more in the sequel] made it ~~[illegible]~~ desirable to create delay. Dr. Maskelyne (as we entitle him for convenience, tho' not then D.D.)

Parish ¥ 21 ✠ Thos W. Kendal contracted to make a copy of the successful Timekeeper, he stated that he had set aside his private business for two years; yet in no tract, that the Author has seen, is there any consideration for the notorious fact, that John Harrison had relinquished his private business not for two only, but for above forty years. The question ——— what would probably have been his situation, if instead of pursuing the ignis fatuus into which his inventor-ate poor (James Earl of Morton) converted the result of his labours, ~~after the return from Barbadoes~~ he had established himself in business in the Metropolis as Tompion & Graham had done before him, is always blinked (as Squire Western would express it.) Yet with the aid of a slate pencil and a few figures, would shew his remuneration; but his faculties interwoven with human affairs, would have left him no desire, a great man, as he always was, to exchange his shop for the intermeddle-some of trouble, in which he found himself embarked, both before & after the return from Barbadoes: if he could have foreseen but a fraction of it. ——— As his superior skill in the construction of astronomical clocks, to which his attention would have been principally directed by mathematicians, would have left him almost without a rival in Europe or America & as his emoluments may be adjudged to have been in proportion to the demand for his work, it does not seem overrating his receipts, if they are taken, one year with another at £600 of the money of that day. In order to be on the safe side, however, say, 500; if his son who assisted him from

communibus annis

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